

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A telecommunications system, comprising:
2 a central control center maintaining a central database of users and a
3 database of preactivation information; and
4 a plurality of local switches adapted to detect a power-on of a cellular
5 telephone, activate said cellular telephone at a local switch and forward activation
6 information to said central database.

1 2. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said
2 central control center is adapted to receive said preactivation information from a
3 point of sale.

1 3. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 2, wherein said
2 central control center is adapted to propagate said preactivation information to said
3 plurality of local switches.

1 4. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 3, wherein said
2 activation information comprises a valid password entry.

1 5. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 4, wherein said
2 preactivation information is propagated from an activating local switch to other
3 switches.

1 6. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 4, wherein said
2 preactivation information is transmitted from an activating local switch to said central
3 control center and propagated from said central control center to other switches.

1 7. A telecommunications method, comprising:
2 providing a central control center maintaining a central database of users and
3 a database of preactivation information; and
4 providing a plurality of local switches adapted to detect a power-on of a

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5 cellular telephone, activate said cellular telephone at a local switch and forward
6 activation information to said central database.

1 8. A method in accordance with claim 7, wherein said central control
2 center is adapted to receive said preactivation information from a point of sale.

1 9. A method in accordance with claim 8, wherein said central control
2 center is adapted to propagate said preactivation information to said plurality of local
3 switches.

1 10. A method in accordance with claim 8, wherein said activation
2 information comprises a valid password entry.

1 11. A method in accordance with claim 10, wherein said preactivation
2 information is propagated from an activating local switch to other switches.

1 12. A method in accordance with claim 10, wherein said preactivation
2 information is transmitted from an activating local switch to said central control center
3 and propagated from said central control center to other switches.

1 13. A telecommunications switch in a telecommunications network,
2 comprising:
3 a database storing preactivation information; and
4 a password collection unit adapted to receive a password of a detected
5 cellular telephone;
6 wherein said preactivation information is propagated to said
7 telecommunications switch from a point of sale of said cellular telephone and,
8 responsive to a verification of said password, an activation of said cellular telephone
9 at said telecommunications switch occurs, said database is updated with activation
10 information and said activation information is forwarded to other telecommunication
11 switches in the network.

1 14. A telecommunications switch in accordance with claim 13, wherein said
2 preactivation information is propagated to said telecommunications switch from a
3 central control center.

1 15. A telecommunications switch in accordance with claim 14, wherein said
2 activation information is propagated to said central control center responsive to said
3 verification.

16. A telecommunications switch in accordance with claim 14, wherein said activation information is transmitted to said central control center responsive to said verification and said central control center propagates aid activation information to other telecommunications switches in said network.

17. A telecommunications method, comprising:
 - 2 associating a password with a cellular telephone;
 - 3 providing said password and preactivation information to a central control
 - 4 center;
 - 5 propagating said password and preactivation information to one or more local
 - 6 switches;
 - 7 detecting a power on of said cellular telephone at one of said local switches;
 - 8 verifying said password at said one of said local switches;
 - 9 activating said cellular telephone at said local switch responsive to said
 - 10 verifying; and
 - 11 providing activation information responsive to said activating from said local
 - 12 switch to said central control center and other local switches.

1 18. A telecommunications method in accordance with claim 17, wherein
2 said associating a password comprises associating said password at a point of sale
3 of said cellular telephone.

19. A telecommunications method in accordance with claim 17, wherein
2 said providing activation information comprises transmitting said activation

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3 information from said local switch to said central control center.

1 20. A telecommunications method in accordance with claim 17, wherein
2 said providing activation information comprises propagating said activation
3 information from said local switch to said other switches.

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